

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S TREASURES.

BY MRS. HALE.

(*See Plate.*)

"I tell thee, Heaven, which made all holy things,  
Made naught more holy than the boundless love  
Which fills the mother's heart."—MRS. HEMANS.

Is it not a consoling thought that, amid all the waywardness and selfishness of human passions, there is one kind, pure, disinterested affection, on which mankind may always rely? The mother's love—how rarely has it failed in its sweet offices of care and devotion! From the queen on her throne to the poor pale mendicant who begs relief for her starving children, this undying affection is the governing motive of exertion.

"Let me perish, but let Nero reign!" was the reply of Agrippina to the prophetic Augur, who cautioned her not to elevate her son. In that answer is embodied the deep sentiment which has sustained the soul of woman, in every age and nation, to endure sufferings and sacrifices, from which the sterner, stronger nature of man would have shrunk appalled—and all for the success and happiness of the children she loves better than her own life.

Happily for Queen Victoria, the son on whom she places her fondest hopes, though the sceptre to which he is heir may, nominally, sway as many millions of men, as did that of the Cæsars, will

never be invested with that irresponsible power which maddens and finally destroys all by whom it is wielded. She may dream of the advancement of her son without fearing that the beneficial influences of her reign can be entirely destroyed by his, be his character ever so perverse or selfish.

*The good mother* we consider the most exalted character which humanity affords; and Victoria has hitherto appeared to deserve this title to our esteem. May she enjoy its best rewards, that of seeing her children good. It may seem of no great import to wish this for the children of a Queen; but in that simple phrase is comprised all that life can give of true greatness and happiness, all that is worth living for, all that death does not take from us.

"If there be, in the character," says Dr. Taylor, in his *Statesman*, "not only sense and soundness, but virtue of a high order; thus, however little appearance there may be of talent, a certain portion of wisdom may be relied upon most implicitly." Questions of right and wrong are a perpetual exercise of the faculties of those who are solicitous as to the

right or wrong of what they do or see; and a deep interest of the heart in those questions, carries with it a deeper cultivation of the understanding, than can be easily effected by any other excitement to intellectual activity.

Here, then, we see the importance of the good mother in the education of her children, and how her influence supersedes and overrules that of all other teachers.

“I firmly believe,” says the Rev. Timothy Flint, “that if the world be ever regenerated, it must be by the power and influence of women.” The conduct of Queen Victoria, elevated as she has been,

by Providence, to be an example for the women of her own great kingdom, is, therefore, highly important to the world; and we rejoice that she so beautifully exemplifies the best virtues of her sex, in her character as wife and mother. All the regalia in the Tower of London would not so adorn and beautify Victoria in our eyes, as the jewels of her maternal love, which she displays in this picture. May she so fashion and perfect the immortal souls committed to her care, that when the kingdoms of this world are passed away, like an autumn leaf, she may be enabled to say to her Lord, “Behold me and the children thou hast given me.”

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.